

Investing in Local Infrastructure

For many constituents I have spoken with, their main concerns are surrounding pocketbook issues during this time of persistent inflation. Investing in working class Minnesotans and growing the middle class is one of the most pressing issues facing our state, and something I take seriously. While our nation-leading child care tax credit and elimination of the social security tax for most Minnesotans will have a big impact, one of the best ways to boost our local economy is through investments in infrastructure projects. By passing what are referred to at the Capitol as “bonding bills,” we are able to create jobs, improve local infrastructure, and encourage long sustained development in our communities.

That’s why I spent much of my time last year working to pass two historic capital investment bills, investing \$2.6 billion into Minnesota's economy. The legislation will reach every corner of our state, creating jobs and sustained community investment, but few places will receive as great of an investment as our communities in the St. Croix Valley. I was proud to help deliver the following projects:

- \$20 million for a redesign of the intersection at Lake Elmo Ave and Highway 36
- \$6 million for improvements to downtown Stillwater
- \$5.7 million for stormwater management and flood control in Forest Lake
- \$4.5 million for improvements to Highway 97 and County Highway 32
- \$2.2 million for the regional arts and heritage center in Scandia
- \$2.2 million for redevelopment in Oak Park Heights
- \$700,000 for the heritage center in Stillwater
- \$250,000 for improvements to the veterans memorial in Forest Lake

This is an unprecedented amount for our local communities and these projects will go a long way to ensure our community can thrive and remain a great place to live and raise families. There will also be a capital investment bill this year, and I’m hoping to maintain our record level of local investment. Just to name a few, I’m supporting local projects like \$5 million for emergency housing, \$3 million for local trail upgrades, \$1.9 million for the design and reconstruction of Myrtle Street, and \$1.2 million for the reconstruction of the Washington Avenue and North Frontage Road intersection. Each one of these priorities will create jobs and lead to future development in our communities..

I will continue to work to improve our local economy so every working and middle class resident can afford the expenses of daily life and thrive economically. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns, or suggestions on how I can better serve you and the interests of our community.

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